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7 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : OXCART Flight Test Status - 6 March 1963

1. Aircraft #123 (J-75 engines) made flight #50, 6 March, for a duration of one hour and forty-nine minutes, with a Lockheed test pilot at the controls. The purpose was to flight test the Eastman-Kodak camera, the inertial navigation system and the automatic direction finder (ADF) equipment. The camera operated normally and inertial navigation system functioned throughout the flight. However, details regarding resolution and accuracies are not yet available pending analysis. The ADF system results are promising with good signals and homing at 100 nautical miles and normal station passage. There was delay in drag-chute blossoming upon landing and the chute failed to release.

2. Aircraft #124 (trainer with J-75 engines) made flight #38, 6 March, with two Agency pilots on a training refamiliarization exercise for a duration of one hour and forty-three minutes. The maximum altitude was 45,000 feet and speed of Mach 1.07. The pilots commented favorably on the nonreflective black paint in the cockpit which reduced annoying reflections. The landing was normal, including satisfactory drag-chute operation. Aircraft #124 will be grounded until about 18 March for the purpose of conducting the first routine periodic maintenance inspection of the aircraft after 51.05 cumulative hours of flying.

3. Aircraft #125, modified to incorporate circumferential screens, was inspected after a ground engine run, 5 March, and minor foreign object damage discovered on each J-58 engine. J-58 engine #204 had one nick about 3/16 of an inch deep on one first stage compressor blade leading edge about four inches from the tip. Also there were two very small nicks on two other first stage blades and two very small nicks on two second stage blades. The ninth

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Control System

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stage shows no evidence of damage. After blending damage the engine is regarded as serviceable.

4. Aircraft #121, #122 and #125, all equipped with J-58 engines, are being readied for flights on 7 or 8 March.

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(Special Activities)

John Parangosky:C/DD/OSA:haj (7 March 1963)

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